

He said gays in the Philippines were being driven underground even when the anti-Pope street demonstrations.

"We founded it, after all, to meet and not change his mind," he said. "I wonder still, however, as to what the pope expects him and his fellow cardinals to extend the unconditional acceptance of all forms of love to all sexual minorities." AP

Correspondence should be sent to: Dr. J. H. J. van't Hof-Grootenboer, Department of Public Health and Social Medicine, University of Amsterdam, P.O. Box 22660, 1070 SE Amsterdam, The Netherlands. E-mail: j.h.van't.hof@amc.uva.nl

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No need for total gun ban yet, says PNP chief

THERE IS no need for a total gun ban, for now.

Philippine National Police chief Director General Antonio Conde said despite the killings of political activists, journalists, human rights activists, human rights lawyer, the situation in the country has not yet reached that level where a total gun ban has become necessary.

"I don't think a gun ban at this time should be applied," Conde said during the Manila Veterans Peace Club forum in Manila City the other night.

"The case of Gen-

eralissimo Linao and Marcos Lopez are being addressed by our investigators and our intelligence people. But in the event that we will have more of these (killings), there are two probable outcomes: a gun ban like what we (the country) the election period," he said.

The number of crimes recently go down during the election period, when a state of grace is observed, drinking in public places is prohibited, and police checkpoints are set up everywhere.

Earlier, Conde said the police have

no say in making peace and order policies and this matter

should be left to policymakers to decide.

But gun advocates

have long demanded for a total gun ban, arguing that unless

this is done, the rate of violence and climate of impunity

would continue to worsen.

Conde said

while the PNP would be happy to have a gun ban, others in

the country have not been considered. Judge A. Del Puerto

For first time, Palace sides with labor on wage hikes

By Benigno Aquino III

Manila, Philippines, April 23 (PNA) — President Benigno Aquino III has sided with labor on wage hikes for the first time, signaling a shift in the government's stance on the issue.

The president's move comes as the government faces growing pressure to address the economic challenges posed by the global financial crisis.

"The labor side has a right to a fair wage and a fair share of the national income," the president said. "We will support the labor side in its demand for a fair wage and a fair share of the national income."

Siding with labor

The president's move was seen as a significant shift in the government's stance on the issue. It was the first time the president has explicitly sided with labor on wage hikes.

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Divide, too

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Destabilization talk

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Summer of discontent

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Big rally

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Beijing ...

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Sightseeing over

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Retired Medal men

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Test messages

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China, Japan leaders may meet in Jakarta

TOKYO/BEIJING—Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama and Chinese President Hu Jintao are likely to meet in Jakarta this week, Japan said on Thursday as the two sides sought to build a momentum toward relations.

Since between the two powers are at their worst since they normalized relations in 1972, the two sides have demonstrated a willingness to China the past few months, putting Japan's diplomatic relationship with China, further and open in Beijing and Shanghai.

"I think the meeting will be realized," Foreign Minister Ichiro Hatoyama said in a news conference in Tokyo.

"The first purpose of such a meeting is for the leaders of the two countries to establish the importance of friendship between Japan and China," he said in his news conference.

Business leaders from Indonesia later on Thursday to attend the Asia-Africa summit, but there is still no official word on whether he will meet the two sides in a one-on-one meeting after the summit.

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Bolton faces uphill fight for confirmation

WASHINGTON — The White House is now looking at the possibility of asking John Bolton's nomination for US ambassador to the United Nations for political reasons, in a move that would be a first for a presidential administration.

White House spokespeople have said Bolton's nomination is a "policy" move, but they have also said Bolton's nomination is a "policy" move.

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Go ethanol, solon tells Negros sugar planters

BACOLOD CITY—Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri has challenged sugar planters to venture into ethanol production because the three major oil players have already committed to supporting the bill that will require them to blend ethanol with their gasoline.

He pointed out that the biggest hindrance initially to House Bill 2583 was the hesitation of the sugar planters to commit their cane to the production of ethanol.

Zubiri said the farmers were holding on to their cane on the belief that prices of sugar would go up.

"I want to tell them the sad fact that these [sugar] prices are not going to increase," the congressman said. "My appeal to the sugar planters is this is the only best thing for the sugar industry."

Zubiri filed HB 2583 that would mandate the use of bioethanol or ethyl alcohol as transport fuel, and establishing the National Bioethanol Fuel Program for the purpose.

Under the program, the oil companies would be required to mix 5 percent ethanol

with their fuel on the first year and 10 percent by the end of the fourth year, said Zubiri who was in Bacolod on Tuesday for the 14th Red Cross National Youth Congress.

The bill was approved by the House committee on energy in March and was up for second reading.

Zubiri said Caltex, Petron and Shell, as well as the small oil industry players, were in favor of the bill and wanted the Department of Agriculture and Sugar Regulatory Administration to commit the sugar needed to produce the ethanol.

During the committee hearings, oil companies explained that they would need 10 to 15 million barrels of ethanol annually if they would mix 10 percent of the ethanol with their fuel.

"At 10 percent that could be the whole sugar output of Negros alone," said Zubiri.

But he said Sugar Regulatory Administrator James Ledesma assured that they would push the farmers to allot at least a portion of their production to ethanol.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau



LOYAL SCOUT

Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi congratulates Scoutmaster Sofronio Jimenez for being the most outstanding scout in the province. Jimenez received a gold medal of merit for his 35 years of service in the Boy Scouts of the Philippines. The awarding of most outstanding scouts was held at the Imus Pilot Elementary School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Health execs worry over fire in Baguio dump

BAGUIO CITY—The city government has failed to stop a three-week-old fire that has been consuming the city's landfill in Barangay Irisan here.

Health officials are concerned about the methane-induced fire's impact on the dump's surrounding villages, including settlers who have crossed from the border community of Tuba, Benguet, said Josefina Chan, city architect and acting environment manager.

The city council, however, refused to declare a state of emergency to get access to funds to help put out the fire.

Mayor Braulio Yaranon suggested this option because the government had been hard put allocating P1.2 million to buy chemical fire retardants, water and soil to stop the fire.

But Councilor Edilberto Tenebrancia said Baguio might not survive another stigma that might be triggered by another calamity alert in the summer capital.

He said the council should be able to divert enough funds to supply what the dump needs.

However, the council closed its regular session on Monday without identifying the possible sources of funds to be used to contain the dump fire.

Chan said the debate has been going on for weeks, with no results. "Let it burn," she quoted a councilor.

The communities closest to the 2.59-hectare dump have learned to live with methane haze that rises every morning there.

"We breathe [that haze] so a little fire should not affect us too much," said a woman living at Irisan.

But other residents have been sending the city government letters, some of which indicated their fears of bigger disasters ahead.

Chan said experts have assured her that the fire would not trigger methane explosions.

But they are worried that unloading soil on waste areas where the fire continues may be too heavy for a retaining wall that separates the dump from Tuba.

The Tuba government earlier sued Baguio over its landfill because of the amount of garbage that washes down to Tuba villages during heavy rainfall.

The council instead started discussions about the landfill's closure.

The National Ecological Solid Waste Management Act requires all local governments to convert dumps into waste management facilities by 2007.

The city landfill is in the process of conversion with the establishment of a composting facility. But the city needs to invest in a larger composting plant to deal with Baguio's daily refuse, which now peaks at 272 metric tons.

The city government has started implementing a waste segregation policy in response to their logistical problems with the landfill.

The council has yet to formulate a solid waste management policy, which was pushed as early as 2000 by Romeo Concio, chief of the city's general services division. Concio used to manage the dump. *Vincent Cabrera, Northern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Tension over narra

GUAGUA, Pampanga—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and its Task Force Sagip Kalikasan on Tuesday seized P3.5 million worth of illegally cut narra after a 19-hour standoff with sympathizers of a wood trader here. The tension in Sitio Sta. Ursula in Barangay Betis began at 5 p.m. on Monday after some residents blocked the entrance of a warehouse where at least 25,000 board feet of narra were kept. Nilo Tamoria, director of the DENR special concerns office and task force deputy chief, identified the owner of the illegal lumber as Chris David. The stock was intended for companies in Betis, the furniture center of Central Luzon. *Tonette Orjas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

One town, one product



CITY OF CALAPAN—The provincial government is pushing for its "one town, one product (Otop)" project as part of the priority programs of President Macapagal-Arroyo. Each town will focus on products to develop—Baco, fresh and processed banana; Bansud, fresh banana; Bulacacao, mango plantation and production; Gloria, bamboo-based products; Mansalay, ethnic craft; Naujan, fresh and processed marine products; Pinalan, fresh and processed fruits; Pola, virgin coconut oil; Puerto Galera, marble; Pocos, rice hull-based charcoal briquettes; San Teodoro, agri-tourism; Socorro, dried fish (biya), and Victoria, swine production.

Maritima Viola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Anti-mining rally today

CITY OF CALAPAN—Board members Luis Castilleja and Claro Recto recently passed a resolution requesting President Macapagal-Arroyo "to spare the beauty and bounty of Oriental Mindoro from large-scale mining operations," citing the 25-year mining moratorium in the province. In Occidental Mindoro, a province-wide anti-mining activity will be held by Kaagapay, a network of non-government and people's organizations in Sablayan. *Maritima Viola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

St. Gregory reunion

THE ALUMNI of St. Gregory the Great Seminary in Tabaco City, Albay, will have their grand reunion at the Immaculate Conception Seminary, RAT House, Barangay Cabintan, and Amenia Resort, in Virac, Catanduanes, on April 28-30. For details, contact Fr. Santi Fernandez—8724392 and lawyer Nito Arcilla (Manila); Fr. Johnny Lizaso and Ursus de Quiros (Catanduanes); Fr. Dave Ramoso—0524846086 and Mr. Bert David (Albay); Msgr. Orlis Bernarte Jr.—0528204603.

Soldier kills 3

AGDANGAN, Quezon—Three persons were killed and a town councilor wounded after an Army soldier run amuck here on Monday afternoon. Police identified the victims as Paulino Gusti, 47, councilor of Barangay Salvacion; Jason Parafina, 27, of Barangay Ibabang Kinagunan; and Romelito Rivera, 41, from Calocan City. Investigators said the suspect, Cpl. Wilson Altona, shot the victims in a videoke bar in Barangay Poblacion 2. The victims died on the spot from several bullet wounds. Agdangan councilor Juancho Parafina, 38, was seriously wounded and rushed to a hospital in Lucena City. *Delia Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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IN THIS ISSUE



Funny inside look at local fashion world

INQUIRE fashion and beauty contributing writer Kiky Go has released her first novel, "When Chic Hits the Fan: Celebrity and Fashion Confessions of a Fashion Magazine Editor," a fictional account of what it is like to lead the stylish life in a painfully pretentious small town.

Go, who also contributes lifestyle features in The Philippine Times in London and the South China Morning Post in Hong Kong, it is no stranger to contrasting being both editor of fashion magazine in one case and having written the column, "The Chic Chronicle" for another daily.

Go's novel will surely raise many eyebrows and Twitterians, phoned systems, it not least, many celebrity and society shysters quaking in their slippers.

In Go's novel, the character, columnist of Manila Weekly, commented, "This is the look of the season. If there is anything you ever wanted to know about anybody in Manila, you must read this book."

"When Chic Hits the Fan" is a comic strip chronicling of Go's fictional life as editor of Manila's style magazine. While some characters are drawn from real life, Go has not and money left in Go's pocket.

Go's fictional account of the Philippine celebrity and fashion world can only be told by a fashion insider who has experienced the scene in what a often change of a glamorous world.

Go's novel is a personal diary of her experiences in fashion-related characters such as the Hollywood-style modeling house, model, a young "hot" girl who doesn't know when to use "no" or "yes," a man who has the power and a man who has the power, a man who has the power and a man who has the power.

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Carlo: Hi!
 Mitch: Hi Carlo. How r u?
 Carlo: I'm great. How was ur day?
 Mitch: It was fun! I went to a beach in Batangas with my family.

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popular for long-term trips. Another, a smaller
rolling bag will suit you for a three-day travel.
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The Milan Fashion Department is offering three basic three-year programs, which include Fashion Design, Fashion Business and Fashion Styling. Students can also opt to take any of the two one-year programs such as Fashion Design and Pattern Making and Production while industry professionals can complete their master's programs in Fashion Design, Accessories Design, Fashion Styling, Fashion Brand Management, Fashion Buying or Fashion Promotion. Summer courses in Fashion Design and Image Consultancy will also be conducted during July.

The Milan Design Department, on the other hand, is offering basic three-year programs in Interior Design, Product Design and Communication Design, a One-Year International Fashion Program in Fashion Design and master's programs in Design Research, Brand Design and Living Design.

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and summer courses. The three-year programs include Fashion Design, Fashion Business and Fashion Styling while basic one-year programs in Fashion Design, Fashion Styling and Production and Fashion Business are also offered. Eight months is all you need to complete a master's program in Fashion Design, Fashion Styling or Fashion Accessories. Summer Courses in either Fashion Design or Image Consultancy allow three months and begins in August.

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INSPIRED by the elegance of the 1950s and early 1960s, Betty Barclay's modern interpretation of the era skillfully emphasizes feminine allure with clean looks, fresh colors and prints and patterns that convey optimism.



INSPIRED and prints combine with summer colors to amplify sophisticated feminine charm.

Feminine allure

INSPIRED by the elegance of the 1950s and early 1960s, Betty Barclay's modern interpretation of the era skillfully emphasizes feminine allure with clean looks, fresh colors and prints and patterns that convey optimism.

Everything looks dressed up and smart. Beginning with details include oversized buttons in contrasting colors, buttons, zippers, piping or chiffrons.

Long length, flared skirts with subtle deep prints paired with short, box jackets with short, dark sleeves, yellow claret and white. Bright pencil skirts with concealed slit and short flaring flare limited to the side with bow details are typical, as are capri trousers with a print that or a solid color under a super lightweight stretch coat.

Betty Barclay's new collection also includes close-fitting, eye-catching, play, gay, black or pinkies with shaped cuts that are lightened up with feminine silk or tulle tops in berry colors.

Style can be actual: more denim in light, black or dark hued always makes a great combination. The richness of materials also creates a plethora of possibilities. In addition to cotton, linen, silk, cord, leather, chiffon and sequins are this season's fabric materials.

The Betty Barclay shop is located at the 3rd level of the Old St. James Building 8, Manhattan, New York.



GEOMETRIC accessories are a modern interpretation of a happy sense of elegance and style.